

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas	
COUNTY: Marshall	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:	Blue Rapids Library
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East side of the public square			
CITY OR TOWN: Blue Rapids			
STATE Kansas	CODE 66411	COUNTY: Marshall	CODE 117

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Library</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Blue Rapids	STATE: Kansas
STREET AND NUMBER:	COUNTY: Marshall
CITY OR TOWN: Blue Rapids	ENTRY NUMBER 20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Register of Deeds	STATE: Kansas
STREET AND NUMBER: Marshall County Courthouse	COUNTY: Marshall
CITY OR TOWN: Marysville	ENTRY NUMBER 20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: NONE	DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	ENTRY NUMBER
STREET AND NUMBER:	DATE
CITY OR TOWN:	ENTRY NUMBER

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas	COUNTY: Marshall	ENTRY NUMBER 20	DATE
------------------	---------------------	--------------------	------

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Blue Rapids Library is a simple, rectangular Romanesque-styled structure measuring approximately 25 feet wide and 40 feet long. The building is two stories high and has a full basement. The main entrance faces west onto the Blue Rapids public square. The library walls are of uniformly sized stones which have rough hewn faces and are laid in even horizontal courses. Corners of the building are quoined with cut stone blocks projecting slightly from the face of the building. These quoining stones are approximately twice the height of the wall stones. The flat roof is concealed behind the wall parapet. Terminating the west facade is a simple overhanging cornice divided into three sections with the center part higher and wider than the other two. Each part of the cornice is supported by a coupled bracket at each end. This cornice replaces a heavier cornice and semicircular pediment which were originally on the building. Window and door openings on both floors are simple rectangles with semicircular arched heads. The arch stones project slightly from the face of the wall giving further emphasis to the openings. Small keystones are incorporated into each arch. A twisted ropelike trim made of wood enhances each opening. The double doors at the main entrance are cut to fit the arched opening. A stone porch and steps span the basement entryway below the main entrance. Two windows and a door are located in the basement area-way, which is reached by a flight of steps from the south. An iron fence surrounds the areaway except for the south side. The only access to the second floor is by an exterior steel staircase on the north side of the building. This stairway is comparatively recent and replaced an older one which had deteriorated.

The first floor is divided into two main rooms which have been altered very little over the years. The second floor, which consists of one large hall, was never completed although it was used as a meeting room in the past. It is now being finished for library use.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1875-1876

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Library</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blue Rapids public library is the oldest library in the state in continuous operation in the same building. The Blue Rapids Library Association was organized in the spring of 1874 and received a charter that June. Appeals for donations of books and money were made by the association, and on June 27, 1874, the library opened in D. W. Hinman's store with a total of 143 books. In December, 1874, the town company gave to the association a \$300 lot on the town square for the library building. Early in 1875 Mayor Carlos E. Olmstead offered \$250 for the building fund if the association would raise a matching amount. Shortly thereafter the association began a series of fund-raising lectures, festivals, and entertainments. It also saved expenses by moving the library facilities, which by then consisted of 1,000 books, into a rent-free building.

Construction of the two-story stone building began in February, 1875, and the cornerstone was laid October 20. Library books were moved into a back room of the new quarters in March, 1876, until the upstairs and front rooms were completed. The total cost of the structure was about \$2,000. The second floor hall was rented to various Blue Rapids organizations, which over the years included a church, the Business Men's Club, lodges, and the American Legion post. The revenue received paid for maintenance costs.

The Library Association supported the library until 1941 when it became a city-financed institution. The library is still operating with over 5,000 volumes.

In its 97 years of existence, the library has played an important role in the cultural development of the community. Additionally, the public library building has state significance as no other structure in Kansas has continuously housed a public library for a longer period of time.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blue Rapids Centennial, 1870-1970 (n.p., 1970), pp. 46, 48.
 "Blue Rapids Library Second Oldest In the State in Continuous Operation,"
 Marysville Advocate, November 2, 1967.
 Blue Rapids Times, February 17, March 16, April 20 and June 1, 1876.
 Forter, Emma E., History of Marshall County, Kansas (Indianapolis, Ind.,
 B. F. Bowen and Company, Inc., 1917), pp. 144, 145.
 Historical and Descriptive Review of Kansas, v. 1 (Topeka, John Lethem, 1890),
 p. 175.
 History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 924, 925.
 Kansas Commercial News, v. 2, no. 12 (January-February, 1902), p. 8.
 Marshall County News, February 6, 20, 1875.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39	40	55
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		96	39	29
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Pankratz, Planner

ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society DATE: September 27, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West Tenth street

CITY OR TOWN: Topeka STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: Nyle H. Miller

Title: Executive Secretary, Kansas State Historical Society

Date: December 14, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date:

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS